

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/EP: FCORRY:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA - WILLIAM D. ROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL PROTEST OF PRESS AND PRIVATE
ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LIMA DISTUR-
BANCES

1. ON FEBRUARY 7, ASST SEC ROGERS CALLED IN PERUVIAN
MINISTER ROCA-ZELA TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN AT
ALLEGATIONS BY PERUVIAN OFFICIALS AND PRESS THAT THE
CIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN CIVIL DISORDER IN LIMA FEBRUARY 4-
6.

2. ROGERS NOTED THAT AMB DEAN HAD CALLED ON PERUVIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY SEC GEN GARCIA BEDOYA IN LIMA TO PROTEST
FEBRUARY 6 LA PRENSA EDITORIAL ALLEGING CIA INVOLVEMENT
IN THE LIMA DISORDERS. ROGERS SAID HE WISHED TO REINFORCE
DEAN'S STATEMENT THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION
TO SUGGESTIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT AND THAT DEPARTMENT
REGRETTED LA PRENSA ARTICLE AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT
TO PRESS IN WASHINGTON BY PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
PRESS SPOKESMAN OSCAR FAURA (THAT HE FAURA COULD NOT
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DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LIMA DIS-

ORDER). HE SAID DEPT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON TODAY HAD MADE A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD THAT THERE WAS NO FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER IN ALLEGATIONS. ROGERS THEN NOTED BARRIOS' (PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA) STATEMENT TO THE

PRESS REGARDING CIA INVOLVEMENT. ROGERS SAID INASMUCH AS US HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY CAREFUL THAT ITS ACTIONS IN PERU NOT CONVEY THE WRONG IMPRESSIONS OR BE MISINTERPRETED, WE DEEPLY REGRET ALLEGATIONS OF THIS SORT. WE ALSO REGRETTED THE RECENT ALLEGATIONS REGARDING AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA. ROGERS SAID WE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID GIVING CURRENCY TO SUCH IMPRESSIONS IN FUTURE.

3. ROCA-ZELA RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW THAT US HAS NOT INTERVENED IN PERU IN ANY WAY AND IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DISTURBANCES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, QUOTE SPEAKING VERY FRANKLY, UNQUOTE THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SENSITIVITY IN LIMA TO SUBJECT OF CIA INTERVENTION AS A RESULT OF MANY ARTICLES IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS REGARDING CIA INVOLVEMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AS A RESULT OF ACCUSATION OF CIA ACTIVITIES EVEN IN U.S. HE SAID THERE WAS ESPECIALLY ACUTE SENSITIVITY TO CONCEPT OF QUOTE ECONOMIC DESTABILIZATION UNQUOTE. REGARDING THE LA PRENSA EDITORIAL, HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY TOOK A DIM VIEW OF LIMA NEWSPAPERS' CONTENTS BUT HE ADDED THAT NEWSPAPERS ARE FREE AND GOP HAS NO CONTROL OVER EDITORIAL CONTENT. HE NOTED THAT THE GOP ITSELF HAD NOT OFFICIALLY ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT.

4. REGARDING FAURA'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN WASHINGTON, ROCA-ZELA SAID FAURA WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT LA PRENSA EDITORIAL. FAURA SAID HE DID NOT HAVE TEXT BUT THAT PRESS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN STATEMENTS. LATER, HOWEVER, FAURA SAID THAT HE QUOTE PERSONALLY UNQUOTE FELT IN LIGHT OF FREQUENT REPORTS OF CIA ACTIVITY AROUND THE WORLD THAT ALLEGATIONS LIKE THAT OF LA PRENSA COULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED. ROCA-ZELA (WHO ALSO ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE) THEN SAID A REPORTER SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED FAURA WHETHER PERU-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIAN EMBASSY WOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING THIS MATTER. ROCA-ZELA SAID HE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT THE BUSINESS OF EMBASSY TO CONTACT DEPARTMENT, AS SITUATION IN LIMA WAS PURELY DOMESTIC PERUVIAN AFFAIR.

5. ROGERS REPLIED HE ACCEPTED ROCA-ZELA EXPLANATION AS BEING ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO FORMAL ALLEGATION

BY GOP THAT THERE HAD BEEN CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE
DISTURBANCES. HE NOTED THAT THIS AFFAIR ILLUSTRATES
EXTREME SENSITIVITY WHICH MUST BE EXERCISED IN DEALING
WITH THE PRESS, ESPECIALLY THE U.S. PRESS. ROCA-ZELA

REPLIED THAT HAD HE BEEN ASKED QUESTION WHICH WAS
ASKED FAURA, HE WOULD HAVE REPLIED QUOTE NO COMMENT.
UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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